

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): An isolated polypeptide dimer comprising ~~at least two peptides selected from the group consisting of:~~ ~~of~~ amino acid residues 247-370 of SEQ ID NO:2, amino acid residues 247-338 of SEQ ID NO:2, ~~and~~ amino acid residues 339-370 of SEQ ID NO:2; ~~and the bonded polypeptide composed of amino acid residues 247-338 and 339-370 of SEQ ID NO:2~~ wherein said polypeptide has a growth factor activity characterized by induction of proliferation of fibroblast cells.

2. (currently amended): A composition of isolated polypeptide dimers comprising a protein of about 35 kDa under non-reducing conditions which appears as bands I, II, and III under reducing conditions, wherein bands II and III are cleavage fragments ~~of~~ band I, wherein band I consists of amino acid residues 247-370 of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or amino acid residues 249-370 of SEQ ID NO:2~~, and bands II and III consist of amino acid residues 247-338 of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acid residues 339-370 of SEQ ID NO:2 respectively, wherein the ~~polypeptide~~ composition has a growth factor activity characterized by induction of proliferation of fibroblast cells.

3 - 65. (cancelled)

66. (currently amended): A composition of isolated polypeptide dimers comprising associated peptide fragments, wherein said peptide fragments ~~are selected from the group consisting of~~ amino acid residues 247-370 of SEQ ID NO:2; ~~amino acid residues 249-370 of SEQ ID NO:2;~~ amino acid residues 247-338 of SEQ ID NO:2; and amino acid residues 339-370 of SEQ ID NO:2 wherein the polypeptide dimers are ~~composition comprises a protein of~~ about 35 kDa under non-reducing conditions and appears as bands I, II, and III under reducing conditions, wherein bands II and III are cleavage fragments of band I, and wherein the composition has a growth factor activity characterized by induction of proliferation of fibroblast cells.

67. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a the polypeptide dimer of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

68. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a the polypeptide dimer of claim 66 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

69. (currently amended): An isolated polypeptide dimer comprising ~~consisting of~~ at least two peptides selected from the group consisting of: amino acid residues 247-370 of SEQ ID NO:2; amino acid residues 247-338 of SEQ ID NO:2; and amino acid residues 339-370 of SEQ ID NO:2; ~~and the peptide composed of amino acid residues 247-338 bonded to 339-370 of SEQ ID NO:2~~, wherein the polypeptide has a growth factor activity characterized by induction of proliferation of fibroblast cells.

70. (currently amended): An isolated polypeptide dimer comprising ~~at least two peptides~~ fragments of the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:2, wherein one peptide ~~is selected from the group of~~ consists of peptides that have apparent molecular weights of 16kDa and 5-6 kDa under reducing conditions, and the second peptide has an apparent molecular weight of 22-25kDa under reducing conditions, wherein the polypeptide dimer has growth-promoting activity.

71. (currently amended): The composition of claims 1, 2, or 66 or the polypeptide dimer of claim 1, 69 or 70 wherein a V5 ~~or~~ and His6 tag, ~~or both~~, is ~~are~~ attached at amino acid residue 370 on one of the fragments selected from the group consisting of amino acid residues 247-370 of SEQ ID NO:2; ~~amine acid residues 249-370 of SEQ ID NO:2~~; and amino acid residues 339-370 of SEQ ID NO:2.

72. (new) The polypeptide dimer of claim 1 wherein the peptide amino acid residues 247-370 of SEQ ID NO:2 are in the form of a bonded polypeptide of amino acid residues 247-338 and 339-370 of SEQ ID NO:2.

73. (new) The polypeptide dimer of claim 69 wherein the peptide amino acid residues 247-370 of SEQ ID NO:2 are in the form of a bonded polypeptide of amino acid residues 247-338 and 339-370 of SEQ ID NO:2.